



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Attorney Docket No.: 1001.55US02

Stodala et al.

Confirmation No.: 2135

Application No.: 10/776,039

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: February 11, 2004

Group Art Unit: 3618

For: VEHICLE MOUNTED STEP ASSEMBLY

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date. No certification or fee is required.

This application was filed after June 30, 2003; therefore, copies of cited U.S. patents and U.S. published applications are not included.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michael Bondi
Michael A. Bondi

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/776,039
Filing Date	February 11, 2004
First Named Inventor	Stodala et al.
Art Unit	3618
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket Number	1001.55US02

O P E R A T I O N S
P A T E N T & T R A D E M A R K O F F I C E

APR 19 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT
(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 6

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL [*]	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US-3,580,613	05-25-1971	Northrup
		US-3,606,382	09-20-1971	Pollock
		US-3,853,369	12-10-1974	Holden
		US-3,865,399	02-11-1975	Way
		US-3,889,997	06-17-1975	Schoneck
		US-3,927,903	12-23-1975	Jones
		US-4,089,276	05-16-1978	Enos
		US-4,194,754	03-25-1980	Hightower
		US-4,234,284	11-18-1980	Hauff
		US-4,639,032	01-27-1987	Barbour
		US-4,676,414	06-30-1987	Deguevara
		US-4,695,218	09-22-1987	Boyer
		US-4,757,876	07-19-1988	Peacock
		US-4,813,842	03-21-1989	Morton
		US-4,846,487	07-11-1989	Criley
		US-4,915,276	04-10-1990	Devito
		US-5,106,002	04-21-1992	Smith et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL [*]	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			

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¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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				Art Unit	3618	
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
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		Number-Kind Code ² <i>(if known)</i>				
		US-5,181,822	01-26-1993	Allsop et al.		
		US-5,215,234	06-01-1993	Pasley		
		US-5,310,100	05-10-1994	Liscinsky		
		US-5,372,287	12-13-1994	Deguevara		
		US-5,397,147	03-14-1995	Ducharme et al.		
		US-5,549,312	08-27-1996	Garvert		
		US-5,570,826	11-05-1996	Garbes et al.		
		US-5,586,702	12-24-1996	Sadler		
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		US-5,732,996	03-31-1998	Graffy et al.		
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		US-5,752,639	05-19-1998	Rice		
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		US-5,803,475	09-08-1998	Dick		
		US-5,803,523	09-08-1998	Clark et al.		
		US-5,820,004	10-13-1998	Lane		
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		Number-Kind Code ² (<i>if known</i>)			
		US-5,820,193	10-13-1998	Straffon	
		US-5,842,709	12-01-1998	Maccabee	
		US-5,881,937	03-16-1999	Sadler	
		US-5,931,362	08-03-1999	Chimenti	
		US-6,095,387	08-01-2000	Lipscomb	
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		US-6,145,865	11-14-2000	Cannara et al.	
		US-6,152,341	11-28-2000	LeMay et al.	
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		US-6,253,981	07-03-2001	McLemore	
		US-6,270,139	08-07-2001	Simpson	
		US-6,296,290	10-02-2001	Wolf	
		US-6,336,413	01-08-2002	Ball	
		US-6,378,748	04-30-2002	Cox	
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		Number-Kind Code ² (<i>if known</i>)				
		US-6,422,342	07-23-2002	Armstrong et al.		
		US-6,474,668	11-05-2002	Debo		
		US-6,499,564	12-31-2002	Puglisi		
		US-6,511,086	01-28-2003	Schlicht		
		US-6,530,588	03-11-2003	Varney et al.		
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		US-2001/0035625	11-01-2001	Debo		
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		US-2002/0060440	05-23-2002	Storer		
		US-2002/0073935	06-20-2002	Graham et al.		
		US-2002/0121760	09-05-2002	Puglisi		
		US-2002/0197142	12-26-2002	Anderson et al.		
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				Art Unit		3618			
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Sheet	5	of	6	Attorney Docket Number				1001.55US02	
NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS									
EXAMINER INITIAL [*]	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published							T ²
		Twistep Assembly, Installation, Use and Safety Instructions, pages 1-4.							
		Hitch Step/Towheads, Hitch Step, page 15.							
		Carr Pattern Company, Inc., page 24.							
		Car Barriers, www.dresslersdog.com/carbarrier.html , pages 1-6.							
		Twistep by OT, Dial up the Utility on your SUV! With Twistep the instant, multi-use step, http://www.twistep.com/index.htm , page 1.							
		Pet Information, http://www.twistep.com/petinfo.htm , pages 2-4.							
		Twistep by OT, Dimensions & Specification, http://www.twistep.com/dimensionsandspecificaitons.htm , pages 1-2.							
		Overton's 2003 Spring Master, page. 115.							
		Steel Horse Receiver Hitch Step, http://www.autobarn.net/steelhurrech.html , page 1.							
		Go Rhino Universal HitchStep, http://shop.store.yahoo.com/rodi/gorhinunhit.html , page 1 of 2.							
		Step-Around Step, Custom Fit Vehicle-Make/Year/Mode, page 1.							
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL*	CITE NO. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T ²
		Bumper Hitch Step, Bumper/Hitch Step Bars, http://www.sportsimportsltd.com/bumhitstep.html , page 1.	
		http://store1.yimg.com/I/truckstuffusa_1733_294812 , page 1.	
		Cabela's Automotive & ATV 2003 catalog, pages 56, 67, 71 and last page.	
		Cabela's – Petstop II Pet Ramp, http://www.cabelas.com/cabelas/en/templates/product/standard-item.jhtml?id=001999186174 , page 1.	
		Bass Pro Shops Marine Catalog 2003, pages 140-141.	
		Twistep Multi-Use SUV Stair Step, http://canineauto.com/twistep.htm , pages 1-5.	

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